

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204803

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 7483 ACTION SECSTATE TREASURY DEPT
DATED AUG 10:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7483

LIMDIS

TREASURY FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL

ARA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, UR, PGOV, SHUM, PINT
SUBJ: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S TALK
WITH FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE USSR
SUPREME SOVIET

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNCLEARED MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
BETWEEN VASILY KUZNETSOV, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM
OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND SECRETARY OF TREASURY, MICHAEL
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BLUMENTHAL. THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE ON AUGUST 7TH IN THE
RUSSIAN EMBASSY AT THE REQUEST OF MR. KUZNETSOV. BOTH PARTICIPANTS
WERE IN BOGOTA DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF JULIO
AYALA TURBAY AND BOTH SPOKE IN ENGLISH. ALSO PRESENT WERE NIKOLAI
BORISOVICH ALEKSEEV, CHIEF OF THE LATIN AMERICAN OFFICE, MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR VLODIMIR I. ANDREEV;
AMBASSADOR DIEGO ASENCIO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY AND EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT FISHER.

2. AFTER THE USUAL PLEASANTRIES, MR. KUZNETSOV BEGAN THE

CONVERSATION BY STATING THAT AT THIS MOMENT IT WAS A GOOD THING TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET. THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS AND UNIVERSAL CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL RESPONDED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT A STRONG EFFORT TO HAVE SOUND US-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES AND FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD. BOTH NATIONS BEING LARGE AND POWERFUL BORE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. PRESIDENT CARTER WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THIS QUESTION. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS CONTINUED TRADE AND INDEED INCREASING TRADE IN PEACEFUL GOODS. THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE WORKING IN THAT DIRECTION. UNFORTUNATELY, THE POLITICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH THESE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AROSE WERE ALWAYS PART OF THE OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL ADDED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY VERY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET HIS COLLEAGUE, NIKOLAY PATOLICHEV, IN MOSCOW AT THE END OF THE YEAR. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT WHEN THERE WERE PROBLEMS AND DISAGREEMENTS IN OTHER AREAS.

3. MR. KUZNETSOV AGREED THT BOTH NATIONS BORE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORLD SITUATION AND STATED THAT HE SINCERELY BELIEVED THAT EXCHANGE OF RELATIONS IN ALL RESPECTS SUCH AS TRADE, POLITICAL PROBLEMS, CULTURAL RELATIONS AND OTHER CONTACTS
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WAS USEFUL FOR BOTH NATIONS AND FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT AMERICAN POLICY RECENTLY HAD BEEN CHANGING. THEY HAD NOTED A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORDS AND DEEDS. HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET WITH PATOLICHEV AND DISCUSS IN DETAIL ALL THESE MATTERS. HE NOTED THAT THE US WAS BEING NEGATIVE IN SMALL TRANSACTIONS SUCH AS GOODS FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND OIL DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND THAT PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED VISITS TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE BEING CANCELLED. HE WONDERED IF WE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD UNDERMINE THE SOVIET ECONOMY AND DIMINISH THEIR DEVELOPMENT. HE STRESSED THE ECONOMIC CAPABILITY OF THE SOVIET UNION SINCE THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND STATED THAT THIS ATTITUDE WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF OUR RELATIONS AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS WAS A QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE THOUGHT ABOUT VERY THOROUGHLY BY THE UNITED STATES AND HE BELIEVED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD FIND A COMMON LANGUAGE WITH PATOLICHEV.

4. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL SAID THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD OR COULD RETARD THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION. WE WERE FULLY COGNIZANT OF ALL OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT HAD BEEN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE ON THEIR OWN. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED, THE EQUIPMENT FOR THE OLYMPICS WAS A COMPUTER. WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD A POLICY OF MAKING A CASE BY CASE JUDGEMENT WHERE UNIQUE TECHNOLOGY WAS INVOLVED. IN OIL DRILLING EQUIPMENT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND PERHAPS IT COULD BE WORKED OUT. THE REASON FOR THE CAUTION AND THE FACT THAT SOME TRIPS HAD BEEN CANCELLED WAS CLEAR. THERE HAD BEEN A

GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN AND STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION ON THE TREATMENT AND TRIAL OF DISSIDENTS AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF SOME PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER TO OUR PEOPLE AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HELSINK CONFERENCE WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS KIND OF EXPRESSIONS WOULD BE ALLOWED EVEN IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE FACT THAT IT WAS NOT A DISAPPOINTMENT TO US. THERE WAS PRESSURE ON OUR GOVERNMENT TO STATE CLEARLY OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF THESE PEOPLE
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INCLUDING JOURNALISTS. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THESE MATTERS COULD BE WORKED OUT. AS A BUSINESSMAN HE PERSONALLY AGREED THAT THE MAXIMUM OF TRADE WAS DESIRABLE. THE RIGHT POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WAS NEEDED, HOWEVER, AND SUCH THINGS AS THE TRIALS HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR US. PERHAPS THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE BUT IT WAS A FACT OF LIFE THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

5. MR. KUZNETSOV RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT STRESSES NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HE CONSIDERED THE CASES MENTIONED A "RUDE" ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT ALLOW SUCH INTERFERENCE NOR DICTATION OF WHAT THEY SHOULD DO IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF OUR SOCIAL DIFFERENCES HE SHOULD MENTION THAT THERE WERE THINGS IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THEY DID NOT LIKE. FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW THESE WERE INTOLERABLE AND A "RUDE" VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, THERE WAS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THE PERIOD 1972-74 WHICH FORMED THE BASIS FOR OUR RELATIONS. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED AFTER THOROUGH DISCUSSION THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THOSE AREAS WHERE WE HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON AND DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT BE EMPHASIZED. IN HIS OPINION, THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION WAS COMING UNDER THE INFLUENCES OF THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THEY HAD LIVED WITH THEIR SYSTEM FOR 60 YEARS AND IT HAD THE SUPPORT OF THEIR PEOPLE. IT WAS ALSO THEIR POLICY TO SUPPORT PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THEY WERE AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. ANY OTHER ROAD WOULD SIMPLY LEAD TO INCREASED TENSIONS. THE DISSIDENTS WERE VIOLATING SOVIET LAW AND WISHED TO
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UNDERMINE THE SOVIET SYSTEM. HE WAS SURE THAT THE SITUATION WAS ANALOGOUS IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE SENSE THAT THE LEGAL SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE STATE. WHEN THEY DEALT WITH SPIES WHO WERE TRYING TO

COLLECT SECRET INFORMATION FOR ANOTHER COUNTRY, TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY, IT WAS NOT A MATTER FOR DISCUSSION. THE THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CHANGE ITS INTERNAL LAWS AND DEPART FROM PAST PRINCIPLES WAS A FORLORN HOPE.

6. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL STATED THAT THERE WAS NO EXPECTATION AND INTENTION TO PRESENT AN ULTIMATUM FROM OUR SIDE ON HOW THEY SHOULD CONDUCT THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THEM TO DECIDE. WE DID BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WHO DID NO MORE THAN EXPRESS A DESIRE TO LEAVE TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES WERE NEITHER SPIES NOR CRIMINALS. THERE WAS STRONG FEELING IN OUR COUNTRY, A SITUATION THAT MADE IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. THE QUESTION OF SPIES WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. ON THE MATTER OF IMMIGRATION IT WOULD BE IN THEIR OWN INTEREST WITHOUT PRESSURE FROM ANYONE TO DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO MAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. MR. KUZNETSOV STATED THAT HE WAS ONLY SPEAKING ABOUT THOSE "RUDELY" VIOLATING THE LAW AND TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE PRESENT SYSTEM. AS FAR AS THE HUMAN SIDE WAS CONCERNED SOVIET LAW WAS VERY FLEXIBLE FOR THOSE WISHING TO GO ABROAD. THIS WAS TRUE AS FAR AS JEWISH NATIONALS WERE CONCERNED. THERE WAS ONLY ONE RESTRICTION. IF THE PERSON INVOLVED HELD SECRETS, THERE WAS A REASON TO DELAY HIS PERMISSION TO DEPART. ANY FAMILY COULD APPLY AND THE AUTHORITIES WOULD CONSIDER IT AND IN MOST CASES GRANT PERMISSION.

7. MR. KUZNETSOV SAID THAT MANY INFLUENTIAL GROUPS THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM, SITUATION
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THAT THEY HAD LIVED WITH SINCE OCTOBER 1917. ONE WAY TO CAUSE THIS CHANGE WAS TO STOP TRADE RELATIONS. ANOTHER WAS A PROPAGANDA OF SLANDER. HE NOTED THAT VICIOUS ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA WAS BECOMING MORE ACTIVE. HE GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS DAYS AS A TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE IN DEALING WITH THE CIO. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL RESPONDED THAT HE WAS SURE HE COULD MATCH HIM STORY FOR STORY AND CITE INSTANCES FROM OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS IN WHICH OUR LIFE WAS MISREPRESENTED. THE KEY POINT WAS THAT THEY RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DEFEND AND POINT OUT THE STRENGTHS OF THEIR SYSTEM AND TO CRITICIZE THE WEAKNESSES OF OURS. WE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DO THE SAME. THE PRINCIPAL POINT WAS THAT WE SHOULD COLLABORATE WHERE WE COULD IN A PEACEFUL WAY. MR. KUZNETSOV SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THIS AN IMPERATIVE. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL REPLIED THAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE- AND IN ANSWER TO MR. KUZNETSOV'S INQUIRY "YES MR. BRZEZINSKI, "TOO" ALL FAVORED THIS.

ON THE LATTER POINT MR. KUZNETSOV STATED "I DOUBT IT".
SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT WE COULD
MAKE PROGRESS IN A VARIETY OF OTHER AREAS SUCH AS
THE DISARMAMENT TALKS TO THE EXTENT THAT WE COULD AND
TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES. TRADE AND
CULTURAL AREAS COULD BE IMMEASURABLE IMPROVED TO BUILD
ON THE THINGS WE HAD IN COMMON. IT WAS HIS THOUGHT
THAT WE WOULD NOT ELIMINATE CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT
EACH OTHERS SYSTEMS. AT ONE TIME IT WAS CALLED
PEACEFUL COMPETITION. IT WAS NECESSARY HE SAID TO
BE VERY CAREFUL OF CREATING SITUATIONS IN OTHER PARTS
OF THE WORLD THAT COULD GO OUT OF CONTROL. WE SHOULD
DO OUR UTMOST IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST SO THAT
WE ARE NOT DRAWN INTO CONFRONTATION.

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8. MR. KUZNETSOV CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT THE SOVIET
UNION WAS IN FAVOR OF DEALING WITH THE UNITED STATES
TO INCREASE ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TO INCREASE CONTACTS
IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD AND AMONG TECHNICIANS. IN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS THEY WERE IN FAVOR OF DOING THE UT-
MOST TO PROMOTE STABILITY AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS
TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THE SOVIET
UNION BELIEVED THAT WE SHOULD SET ASIDE SOME POINTS
WE COULD COME TO AGREEMENT ON RIGHT NOW DESPITE
OUR DIFFERENT SYSTEMS.
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